

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, KS, KN

SUBJ: GOP POLICY TOWARD KOREA

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 4621; (B) SEOUL 4705 (NOTAL)

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1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, ROKG HAS REPEATEDLY ASKED HERE AND IN SEOUL AND ISLABAD THAT WE URGE GOP TO TAKE MORE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH ROKG AND NORTH KOREA. WE HAD AGREED TO RAISE SUBJECT DURING BHUTTO VISIT LAST FALL, BUT AS SCHEDULE FINALLY EVOLVED THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. RECENT VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL NK DELEGATION LED BY VICE PRESIDENT KANG YANG-UK FOLLOWING SERIES OF REBUFFS TO PROPOSED ROK DELEGATIONS SHOULD PROVIDE TIMELY OCCASION FOR AN APPROACH BY YOU AT THIS TIME.

2. WE BELIEVE EVEN-HANDED ACCEPTANCE OF TWO KOREAN PARTIES BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE TO ENABLE THEM TO RESOLVE BASIC KOREAN ISSUES BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

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THIS IS GOAL IMPLICIT IN LAST YEAR'S UNGA CONSENSUS RESO-

LUTION WHICH OVERLOOKED PAST DISPUTES OVER QUESTIONS OF LEGITIMACY AND UN COMPETENCE AND CALLED UPON THE TWO PARTIES TO CONTINUE THEIR BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS. CONCEPT OF EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT APPEARS IMPLICIT IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NK OBSERVER MISSION AT UN AND DPRK PARTICIPATION IN WHO AND IPU ALONG WITH ROKG.

3. PERHAPS MOST DRAMATIC MOVE TO FACILITATE EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT WAS MADE BY PRESIDENT PARK LAST JUNE 23 WHEN HE TURNED AWAY FROM LONG-STANDING POLICY OF REJECTING RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES HAVING RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND DECLARED READINESS TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY. SINCE THEN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE ADJUSTED THEIR POLICIES TO ACHIEVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH SEOUL AND PYONGYANG INCLUDING AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, COSTA RICA, DENMARK, GABON, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, LIBERIA, AND MALAYSIA. MOST OF THESE ARE INSTANCES OF UPGRADING OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, BUT NEW ROKG POLICY HAS MADE POSSIBLE THIS INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF KOREAN REALITIES, A DEVELOPMENT WE BELIEVE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND TO LONG RANGE SOLUTION OF KOREAN ISSUES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS OF ITS OWN NORTH KOREA BELIEVES IT CANNOT ENTER UNGA WITH ROKG AND MUST DENOUNCE ATTEMPTS TO RECOGNIZE PRESENT SITUATION AS EFFORT BY USG TO PERPETUATE DIVISION OF KOREA. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT SINO/SOVIET COMPETITION COMPELS THEM BOTH TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF DIVERGENCE FROM NK LINE AND THAT ISSUE OF DIVIDED COUNTRY IS PARTICULARLY ACUTE FOR PRC. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO REASON FOR COUNTRY SUCH AS PAKISTAN, WITH HISTORY OF POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PAST EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE KOREAN PEACE AND STABILITY, NOT TO JOIN IN EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO KOREAN PARTIES WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THOSE ENDS. KISSINGER

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